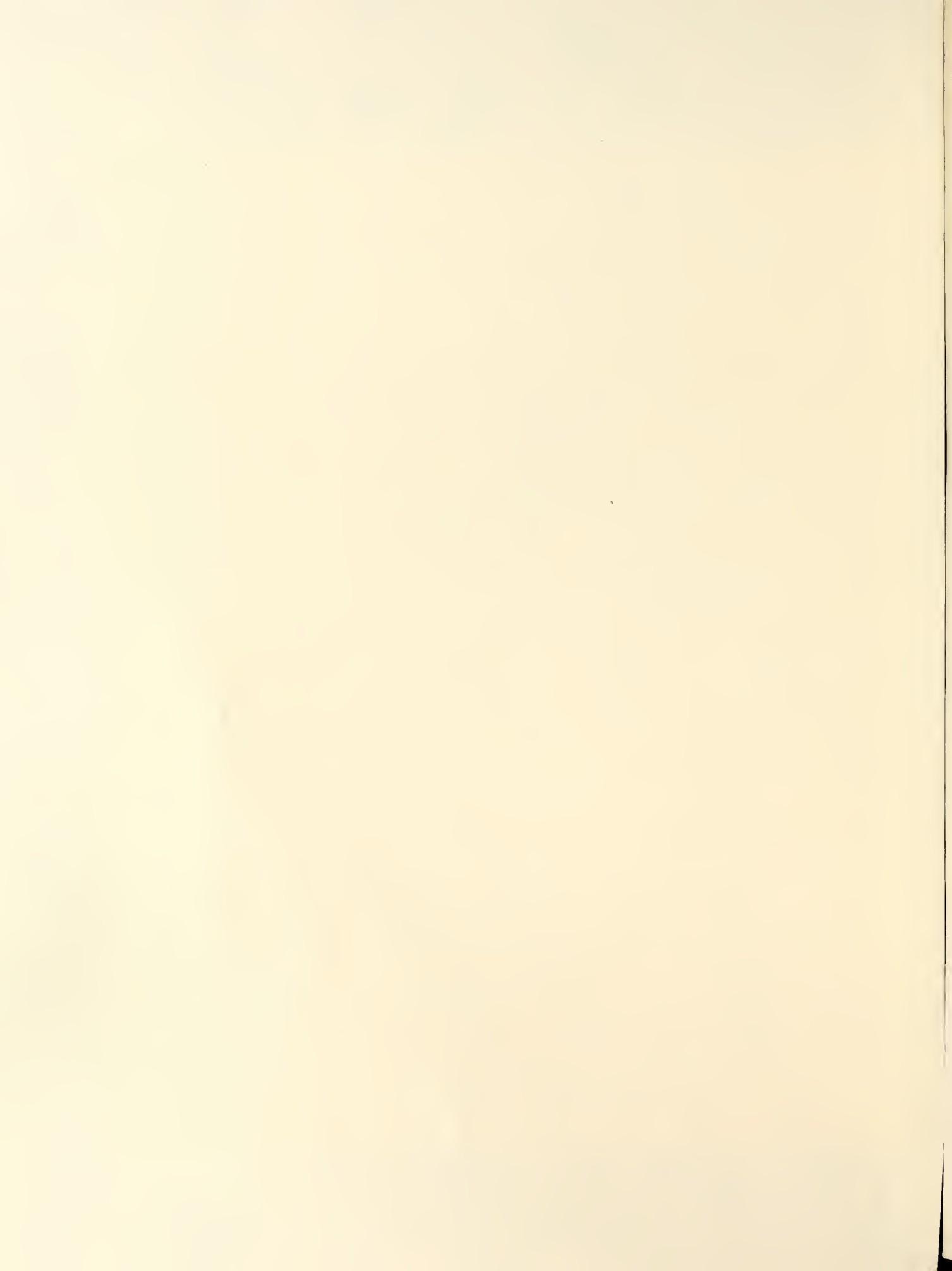


Historic, archived document

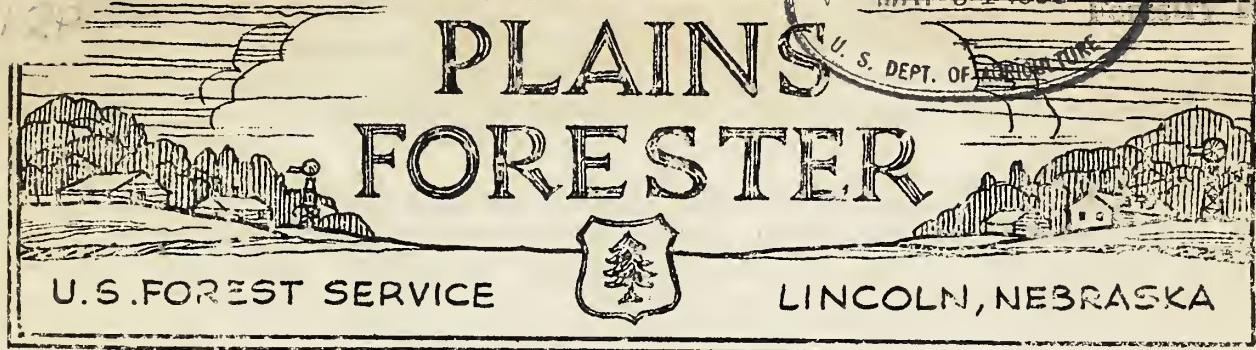
Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



Reserve

1.9

FY610+



Vol. 4, No. 9

December - 1939

A MERRY, MERRY CHRISTMAS

and

A HAPPY, HAPPY NEW YEAR

For the sixth time, the Holiday Season has descended on the Prairie States Forestry Project, and it is my sincere wish that every one of you finds this Christmas the merriest and this New Year the happiest of all.

We have come a long way together since the fall of 1934 when the vanguard of the Project first assembled at the Regional Office. We have seen many of our members go to other posts, and we have welcomed many new members. The spirit of the personnel in carrying on the great task has never lagged. We stand now on the threshold of a new year, with new problems to confront and much work to do. It is only suitable that we take a few moments during this holiday season to orient ourselves for the new effort.

So, have a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Happy New Year!

Paul H. Roberts
PAUL H. ROBERTS

QUAIL AND THE SHELTERBELTS

A strong argument for shelterbelts which is appreciated by most farmers, as well as sportsmen, is the protection they afford wildlife -- mainly game birds. In the South, quail are haunting the shelterbelts in considerable numbers.

The farmers' interest in the quail in the shelterbelts has often led to objections to the use of poisoned maize for rodent control, and there have been numerous claims that the maize would kill the birds. Experiments in feeding quail poisoned maize, carried on at Vernon, Texas, however, indicate that they can not be killed in that manner. (And, incidentally, some sportsmen on the Project declare it is almost impossible to get them in any other manner.)

Members of a grape hoe crew which was assisting the farmer found two dead quail in a shelterbelt near Turkey, Texas. A hawk was devouring one, and having eaten some maize from the dead quail's crop it was "groggy" enough for the men to catch it. Whether the hawk's case was one of "secondary poisoning" has not been definitely ascertained.

The other quail, which was not destroyed, was sent to the Biological Survey laboratories at Denver for analysis. The report showed: One No. 6 shotgun pellet was embedded in the breast muscle, five shot punctures were found in the left wing pit, and death was due to those injuries. Traces of strychnine were present in the crop and gizzard but considerably less than one milligram in content.

From the sportsman's viewpoint, some hunter was guilty of a poor shot, but the evidence and information as it related to our rodent control work was a favorable shot of publicity for the Project.

- H. E. Davidson, Texas.

A BARRAGE OF PUBLICITY

We believe the Hutchinson News-Herald has made what probably is the most outstanding barrage of publicity ever given the shelterbelt program in all of its five years.

A count of all items appearing in this newspaper during the three-week period, October 23 to November 12, was kept and a grand total of 40 clippings in 21 days accounted for. That this barrage was consistent is shown by the appearance of only one issue of the paper without an article mentioning the Forest Service.

In checking through the clippings it was found that 17 dealt with Mrs. Roosevelt's visit to the shelterbelts in the Hutchinson area, six concerned cooperation between the Forest Service and WPA, Township Tree Committees, etc.; six were of a general nature, dealing with Miss March-Mount's visit, similarity of shelterbelts and timber claims, etc.; three dealt with negotiations work; three told about rodent control; two were nursery items; two were general Information and Education character, and one told about seed collection.

Covering such a wide range of subjects in such a short period of time brought the Forest Service before the public's eye as it never before has

been in Kansas. Probably the most interesting development to us (no reflection on the publicity concerning Mrs. Roosevelt) was the Hutchinson News' tying us in with and mentioning the cooperative phases of our work with Township Tree Committees, WPA, Farm Bureau and other organizations, and also their general articles on shelterbelt work.

We believe that once the newspapers and the general public are thoroughly acquainted with and are sympathetic towards the tree-planting program, many of our problems will have been solved.

- Karl F. Ziegler, Kans.

(Editor's Note: Ziegler's last paragraph is important. When that situation obtains, reporters will find more shelterbelt stories than the fondest forester thought existed.)

I'VE HEARD TELL THAT THE TREES ARE STILL GROWING

The El Reno District in Oklahoma wouldn't brag, either, you understand, but just the same Mr. Yaruss' remarks in the August-September PLAINS FORESTER about six-foot-tall Chinese elm trees in the Cheyenne Subdistrict in Oklahoma can not go unnoticed.

We hesitate to speak of good growth made by individual trees, but would rather talk of average heights of entire shelterbelts. Some of these belts would make Mr. Yaruss' prize tree appear to be suffering from rather severe rabbit damage.

Any Subdistrict here in the El Reno District has shelterbelts in which the Chinese elm will average six feet or better. But speaking of individual trees, here are a few of the prize winners of the El Reno District from the 1939 plantings:

1. A chinese elm ten feet, six inches tall, measured in September by Director Roberts in a belt in the Weatherford Subdistrict.
2. Cottonwoods planted in March that are lapping in the middle of the rows, Weatherford, Watonga and Hinton Subdistricts.
3. Ten-foot black locusts.
4. Honeylocusts $9\frac{1}{2}$ feet tall.
5. Hackberry five feet tall.
6. Catalpa eight feet tall and two inches in diameter.
7. Black locust flowering the first year.
8. Desert willow over eight feet tall.

In case anyone doubts that such trees are growing here, just let us know and we will be glad to send you photographic proof.

The El Reno District will raise Mr. Yaruss' challenge and state it this way: We have the best shelterbelts in the entire Project; not just a few, but the shelterbelts over the entire District are the best -- the best average, best growth, best survival, best cultivation, and just the best.

If you want to see good shelterbelts, come to the El Reno District and see how it should be done.

- Maurice C. Yearsley, Okla.

AUSTRALIAN AGRICULTURALIST VISITS SHELTERBELTS

An interesting visitor to the Regional Office this month was Mr. Loundes, agriculturalist of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia, which is, in effect, a Governmental institution with 1,100 branches throughout the Commonwealth. Mr. Loundes had been away from home nearly a year in Europe, Asia, North Africa, and North America, studying agricultural methods and conditions.

He was very much interested in the shelterbelt planting program because of its possible applicability to Central Australia. There, wind erosion and other wind effects are apparently at least as bad as in our Plains region and are seriously interfering with the great wheat-growing section of that country. One interesting side light on the situation was the statement by Mr. Loundes that the Australian Government has hesitated to suggest shelterbelt planting to farmers because of the lack of research in that country on species and culture practices adapted to the situation. He was quite impressed with the fact that at least some research along those lines had been carried on in our Great Plains Region for the past quarter century or more.

Mr. Loundes' tour was in charge of the Soil Conservation Service and he spent approximately two weeks in Nebraska, Kansas, and eastern Wyoming. In company with Arthur Emerson of the Lincoln SCS Offices, Mr. Loundes was shown shelterbelt work by Aubrey J. Arthur District Officer at Neligh. Arthur reports that the men saw a number of old groves and Forest Service plantings of each year from 1935 to 1939 during a trip along Highway 20 from Plainview west to Orchard, and at the Earl Lewis farm in Pierce County they saw a complete planting of mulberry hedges. Both visitors, Arthur says, asked questions about the species used, planting methods and survival, and the Australian checked the survival figure by making an actual count in one of the 1939 shelterbelts.

The trio examined more closely a number of 1935, 1936 and 1937 plantings in the vicinity of Orchard, and when they were shown two of the 1935 shelterbelts near that town both Mr. Loundes and Mr. Emerson declared that they could not have believed such tree growth to be possible if they had not seen the shelterbelts themselves.

- E. L. Perry, R.O.

EULOGY TO THE OSAGEORANGE

Osageorange was restricted in its original distribution to the bottom lands of the Arkansas and Red River Valleys, we are told by such eminent dendrologists as Sargent and Sudworth. The versatility and usefulness of the tree as a living barrier to wind and livestock soon was recognized by the early settlers, or "hedge planters" of the prairies, however, and section and quarter-section lines blossomed out with hedge rows.

In the early seventies a new collector's item, barbed wire, made its debut and the picture began to change. Enthusiasts of the new hobby exhibited as many as 75 varieties of "wire with teeth," all of which helped to shove bow wood out of the fencing picture. The World War I and the agricultural boom which followed proved to be the shot which literally blasted more miles of the thorny stuff out of the land it occupied and was begrimed by the "hedge pullers." The siege of drought, grasshoppers and road widening in recent years further decimated the ranks.

Today the Bois d'Arc is staging its comeback under the auspices of the Prairie States Forestry Project. Adapted as it is to a wide range of sites, it has at last found a permanent place in field shelterbelts. Posts of this species are most commonly used to fence the new plantings, despite the objections of at least one post setter who maintained that two holes were sometimes needed.

But unless we can secure the "new model" thornless variety, cited by Ziegler, we shall be planting what one disgruntled farmer, expecting oranges, termed "just plain old hedge."

- Paul E. Slabaugh, Kans.

IT WAS A GOOD PARTY, BUT NORTH DAKOTA HUNTERS MAY NEED TUTELAGE!

Friday, November 3, marked a gala fiesta in North Dakota. People scurried busily hither and yon at intervals throughout the day. A sort of restless air pervaded the State Office. The infectious excitement spread to the Forest Service wives and one could see them in huddled knots here and there. Phone bells rang and buzzers sounded charged notes.

Evening came and with it the hush that precedes a storm. Slowly at first, then faster and faster dim figures drifted through the gathering gloom. Finally at eight o'clock the climax came in a crescendo of smacking lips, clattering tableware, and grunts and squeals of animal contentment. The big goose feast was on and by nine o'clock nothing remained of three of those noble birds except their brightly shining skeletons.

Behind all this lies a tale of greater drama than that already unfolded. Four hunters, Thomas, Shipley, Williams and Jeffers, crouched in the blind for a long time. For three, four hours their breath clouded the near-zero air in frosty gusts. Cramped by their long, futile wait, the four nimrods trudged wearily to a nearby farm. There they purchased three geese, herded them into a corner of the corral and, raising trusty 12-gauges, loosed a barrage of leaden death.

Loud and long on the clear night air rang sounds of gaiety from the 35 revellers, but in the mind of each a still, small voice continually questioned, "Did we eat wild geese or tame geese?"

- K. W. Taylor, N. Dak.

EXPERIMENT STATION TALKS ABOUT CONIFER ESTABLISHMENT

Conifer establishment, as brought out by Briggs in the October-November 1939 issue of PLAINS FORESTER, is an uphill game in the Great Plains and is beset with many trials and tribulations. Among the fundamental causes of loss are:

1. Conifers maintain their foliage and probably transpire more water than hardwoods, not only in the period of transit to the planting site, but also in the crucial week or two after planting. This retention of needles also militates against the conifers during late winter and early spring when the typical "winter killing", which is merely a form of physiologic drought, occurs. One must bear in mind that trees cannot absorb moisture from frozen ground and that absorption rate is very slow even when soil temperatures are around 40 degrees Fahrenheit.

2. Conifers generally have a comparatively slow initial rate of root growth compared with the broadleaf species such as cottonwood, green ash, Chinese elm, and black locust. These broadleaf species often have a maximum spread of 4 to 8 feet and a rooting depth of 2 to 4 feet at the end of the first year, while conifers (studied in North Dakota) have practically no lateral roots the first year after field planting and have a root depth of only 1 to $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet. This is a sorry showing in "moisture-hunting ability" compared with the broadleaf trees or with the drought-resistant wheat, grain sorghums, and other farm crops which may penetrate as deep as 4 to 7 feet in the brief period of three months, and tap the more deeply stored moisture. The use of growth hormones may offer some possibility in stimulating root growth of the conifers.

3. Because of rapid hardening of the resinous juices in conifers they must be handled with much more care than the broadleaf species which have watery juice.

4. Most of the broadleaf species seem to be much more efficient in food storage than conifers. Some of the heavy-rooted species like bur oak, locust, coffeetree, catalpa, and walnut might almost be likened to a potato in this respect. Even though these seedlings may have a deficiency of fine rootlets, they have the stored up energy to develop a good feeding system in a remarkably short time.

5. Some of the conifers--especially the pines--are more sensitive to limy and alkaline soil conditions than most of the broadleaf species commonly used in Great Plains planting.

6. There is considerable experimental evidence that many conifers need mycorrhiza to attain reasonably good development. Whether the mycorrhiza will survive in the field conditions of the Great Plains, even though present on the roots at time of lifting from the nursery, is a matter of conjecture. One encouraging thing found by Dr. K. D. Doak of the Allegheny Station is that juniper (probably the best conifer for Plains planting) apparently does not benefit to any great extent by mycorrhiza and can get along very nicely without them.

With all of the handicaps listed, it is apparent that consistent success with conifers is probably an almost unattainable goal. However, there are certain practices which have given increased survival in past experience or which have merit in further experiments.

1. Proper balance is no doubt of very great importance. Apparently the top-root ratio attained by any given species and age class will vary greatly between nurseries due to difference in soil fertility, length of growing season, normal growth rate of the seed source used, etc. Briggs reports poorest quality in 2-1 Ponderosa as regards survival and top-root ratio. I imagine this was from a Nebraska nursery. In North Dakota we found the best top-root ratio for 2-1 stock (1.7:1 on a green weight basis). Therefore, let's emphasize total weight and top-root ratio in gauging quality of conifer planting stock rather than the age class.

2. Method of lifting is important. Studies conducted in some R-9 nurseries indicate that unless great care is taken, a larger percentage of the root system is left in the ground than is generally realized.

3. Temperature and moisture conditions between time of lifting and planting are extremely important. Experience in R-9 could be summarized thus: Avoid excessively long storage periods; the ideal system is where the trees are planted within a few days after lifting. Keep the stock cool, preferably at 36 to 40 degrees Fahrenheit, while in storage. If no cold storage plant is available, use chipped ice mixed in with the packing material. This will prevent mold, reduce respiration, and keep stock cool in transit. Mr. C. G. Bates of the Experiment Station is of the opinion that it would be worth trying a specially trained crew to do all conifer planting and thus not only reduce the interval between time of lifting and planting, but get a more thorough job done.

4. Methods of planting bare root stock will warrant more investigation on the theory that a root system can be so spread out at time of planting as to get a maximum contact with soil and a larger feeding area. Tests could involve inverted-V, cone, side hole, center hole, and modified slit methods.

5. Wax emulsion sprays warrant additional trial, especially in sections where overwinter loss is heavy. We have been disappointed in them on spring plantings.

6. Initial soil moisture content of soil must be of some importance in successful survival. In the Lake States we usually quit field planting when available soil moisture drops below about four percent. Perhaps in the Great Plains we will have to use the water wagon on conifer rows rather than delay planting too long.

7. Use of balled and burlapped or potted stock shows promise but is expensive. Perhaps it is the only way to get reasonably consistent results. The B.P.I. Station at Woodward, Oklahoma has developed a metal sleeve used in lifting the stock with soil intact previous to burlapping. The method warrants thorough trial by the Prairie States Forestry Project.

8. Reduction of transpiration area by pruning foliage, especially of juniper, should warrant trial.

9. Results from use of artificial barriers such as shingles have been of some encouragement and suggest the possibility of using a more efficient shield in the form of a galvanized iron cylinder with steel legs which would be pushed into the ground over the tree. To reduce hauling and handling costs, such shields could well be made in two semi-cylindrical sections with a steel pin on each segment with which to drive it into the ground. Such shields, if left in place for one or two full years, may be of value in reducing transpiration and mortality from hot desiccating winds and from winter killing, and would be used for many years.

10. Use of rows of quick-growing annual crops sounds like a good possibility if placed on either one or both sides of the tree row. It does, however, complicate the cultivation and hand-weeding job. Moreover, such crops also reduce the moisture content of the soil and unless they are placed at a proper distance from the tree row, may do more harm by sapping moisture than is obtained by reduction of transpiration and desiccation of the conifers.

11. Mr. Wood of the Regional Office (R-9) reports the extensive use of felt paper mulches in Hawaiian pineapple fields to reduce weeds and conserve moisture. How about a trial of square or circular mats of heavy felt paper which are treated to last a full season? The mats would have to be 18 to 24 inches in diameter with a slot to the center hole to facilitate slipping them around the base of the tree. They would have to be held down with eight or ten wooden or metal pins. Straw or weed mulches as suggested by Briggs might accomplish the same thing.

The Lake States Forest Experiment Station is proposing a research program for South Dakota under the Norris-Doxey Act to tackle this very problem of conifer establishment in the Great Plains. It is one in which State Extension Forester Rockwell is very much interested. Ideas are solicited from all field men.

- J. H. Stoeckeler, Lake States
Forest Experiment Station.

TEXAS EXPERIMENTS WITH CONIFERS

During the last planting season we made an informal study to determine the effect of late planting on red cedar.

On March 6 the first planting was made at the Delwin School. A small supply of cedar was then placed in cold storage at approximately 36° Fahrenheit to be left until May 15. At this time the March planting was interplanted with part of the cedar which had been in cold storage. The remaining trees were kept under the same conditions until June 5, 1939, at which time they were planted in the same row.

Although all of these plantings were made immediately following rains, the trees were severely blasted by each windstorm from the adjoining bare school ground. No artificial protection such as shingles on cover crops was used.

The result of the survival count made July 1 is as follows:

<u>Date Planted</u>	<u>Condition</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Percent</u>
March - - - - -	Missing	6	6
	Dead	53	53
	Questionable	27	27
	Thrifty	14	14
	Living	41	41
May - - - - -	Missing	3	3
	Dead	32	32
	Questionable	18	18
	Thrifty	47	47
	Living	65	65
June - - - - -	Missing	0	0
	Dead	43	63
	Questionable	23	33.8
	Thrifty	2	.2
	Living	25	34

It can be seen from this count that the May planting was the best so far. Another count will be made at the end of the growing season.

Practically all of the March survival was found in a small part of the belt which was protected by an adjoining building, while the May survival is scattered uniformly throughout the belt. Although the May planting shows the greater survival, further studies of this nature are necessary before any definite conclusion may be drawn.

- Thomas C. Croker, Jr., Tex.

REGIONAL OFFICE, STATE DIRECTORS DINE AND DANCE

Nearly sixty members of the Regional Office staff, their wives and husbands, State Directors, and guests enjoyed the annual Forest Service party at the East Hills Clubhouse, Lincoln, on the evening of November 15.

The affair began with a dinner at 7 o'clock, with Director Roberts starting things off with a short welcome talk. The diners were seated six to a table, and with the use of place cards the committee made sure that the get-acquainted feature of the party would function from the beginning. Each table was decorated with a cluster of flowers, above which rose the lighted tip of a candle, and Thanksgiving season favors were at the diners' places.

After the dinner, dancing and bridge-playing continued until just before midnight.

Those in attendance who are not connected with the Regional Office were: C. E. Rachford, Assistant Chief of the Forest Service, of Washington, D. C., State Director and Mrs. F. E. Cobb of North Dakota, State Director A. L. Ford of South Dakota, State Director and Mrs. John L. Emerson of Nebraska, State Director T. Russell Leitz of Kansas, State Director and Mrs. John R. Nelson and Miss Ella Mae North of Oklahoma, State Director W. E. Webb of Texas, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Offutt of the Regional Coordinator's office at Lincoln, A. M. Hurt of the Regional Coordinator's office at Amarillo, Texas, and Miss Ruth Tower of Lincoln.

- H. J. Swan, R.O.

A RARE TREAT FOR OKLAHOMA

Venison -- you know, the stuff that grows around a deer's bones --- was the principal subject of discussion Sunday October 29, at the Kiwanis Park at Hinton, Oklahoma, by the El Reno District personnel, with supplementary remarks by the State Office staff.

Mike F. Thomsic, El Reno District Officer, returned from his vacation with a quarter of an animal to which he fondly refers as deer, but as yet he has offered no satisfactory answer to the question "Where are the horns?" Nevertheless

The steaks were things of rare beauty. Broiled and fried over a glowing bed of hot coals they were really deerlicious. How these Subdistrict Officers' wives from the West can go as they did for such raw meat is still being discussed by the native Oklahomans.

Everyone ate too much, but never had more pleasant cases of indigestion in their lives. The general opinion was: "Sure, Mike, we'll all be back next year for that elk."

- El Reno District Scribe, Okla.

TEXAS JINGLES - MANY SUBJECTS, ALL INTERESTING

District Officer Foy B. Morgan has a new hat! This has little significance to many of you readers, but to those who know Roy, and particularly his hat, this is the outstanding event of the past couple of months. One of Roy's constituents thought a "revenoover" was after him when he saw Morgan approaching in his new hat and uniform. The cooperator started to run away, but gave it up resignedly as a bad job when Morgan also increased his pace. When the cooperator finally recognized Roy he said "You old so-and-so, you! I didn't recognize you. Why'nt you tell me who you were?"

oo-oo

The wild game bird survey in our shelterbelts indicated thousands of bobwhite and blue quail are using them, but unfortunately the inquiries were not complete enough to give the detailed information desired. From 58 inquiries representing 59 miles of belt, 84 percent (or 49.56 miles) indicated the presence or abundance of wild fowl. The tally approximated 1,615 birds. Coveys ranged in size from 10 to 30 birds. The belts averaged about two birds to the acre, according to the figures received, but Forest Officers believe this very low. On the basis of these replies to the Texas inquiry, there are over 43,000 birds on approximately 22,000 acres. In addition to this there are large numbers of doves, songbirds, etc.

One cooperator counted 13 eggs in a nest. Many cooperators' wives are very much interested in the songbird population even more than in the increased crop yields.

oo-oo

Excellent cover crops have been planted on many of the shelterbelts this past year. Some of the growth figures are unbelievable. The Wells-Brantley 1938 belt in Collingsworth County is noteworthy for its 15 ft. cottonwood and 13 ft. Chinese elm. Another belt farther north, planted in 1939, is reported as having 10 to 12 foot cottonwoods. In the Spade Flat community in Donley County, Chinese elm are averaging over six feet for the first year, with occasional specimens nine feet tall! Survivals run over 90 percent in many of the communities, except for the cedar. Although representing a small percentage of the total, this holds true generally in the better class communities.

The following notes were taken on the S. S. Carpenter belt in Donley County:

Survival

Row	Species	Living	Dead	Ht.	Row	Species	Living	Dead	Ht.
1	D. willow	21	4	54"	6	Chinese elm	25	0	72"
2	Apricot	25	0	38"	7	" "	25	0	72"
3	Mulberry	23	2	48"	8	Cottonwood	22	3	78"
4	Ash	25	0	30"	9	"	14	11	78"
5	Honeylocust	25	0	44"	10	Osageorange	21	4	42"

Total living, 226; dead, 24; survival, 90.4 percent. Alkali spots causing some losses - good cane cover crop - medium sandy soil - good moisture - no rodent damage - six quail seen.

oo-oo

Rodent control continues apace, and at what a pace! Thousands of rabbits went Valhalla way as a result of trifling with the well-prepared Wells' mixture but the progeny are biblical in number. Community poisonings, particularly in the Pakan area, Wheeler County, are being planned again. A few months ago one cooperator reported that he hated to go out into his fields, "they stank so with dead waboooses!" (Rabbits to you nishi-shin-shimoke-e-mins).

00-00

With Oklahoma and Texas wrangling over the location of the State line in the Panhandle area, it appeared for awhile that a gun fight would develop. We haven't inquired what Oklahoma got out of the settlement but Texas received one 1939 shelterbelt 7/8 mile long, planted by Oklahoma crews, and some excellent coffee-tree nuts.

- Ye Texas Correspondent

HAUSHERR LEAVES; SWIM AND HALL CHANGE POSITIONS

The Regional Office said goodbye, November 18, to Frank E. Hausherr, Administrative Assistant in Operation and one of the "pioneers" of the Prairie States Forestry Project. He has resigned, effective December 29, but left November 18 to enjoy some leave before taking up the harness in private employment. Frank joined the Project in December, 1934, coming from Region Six (Washington Oregon) to become Administrative Assistant at the South Dakota Office at Brookings. In September, 1935, he came to the Regional Office of Fiscal Control as Inspector of Accounts and in February, 1938, he became Administrative Assistant in Operation. Good luck, Frank!

Two important personnel changes followed the Hausherr resignation. Harold E. Swim, Administrative Assistant for Kansas, was transferred to the Regional Office as Junior Administrative Officer in Operation, and John Hall, Senior Clerk in the Kansas Office, was promoted to take Swim's place, both effective in November.

Harold Swim joined the Project in December, 1935, as a Senior Clerk in the Oklahoma Office, and in August of the following year he was transferred to the Nebraska Office (then in Lincoln). He was promoted in February, 1938, to be Administrative Assistant for Kansas, from which position he comes to the Regional Office. Harold and Mrs. Swim and their infant son moved to Lincoln early in November, and all of the R. O. personnel welcome the Swims back.

John Hall became a Senior Clerk in the South Dakota Office in November, 1935, and was transferred to Kansas in April, 1936. From July, 1938, to August, 1939, he was on detail to the Regional Office in connection with the machine accounting experiment, and effective in November he became Administrative Assistant in Kansas. We extend our congratulations. John, with Mrs. Hall and their two daughters, had returned to Manhattan at the conclusion of the detail in August.

A second resignation to be reported is that of L. J. Wirth, Senior Clerk at the Texas Office, who left the Project in October. Wirth joined the Project as a Senior Clerk in the Nebraska Office in November, 1935, and was transferred to Texas in March, 1937. We were sorry to see him go and wish him luck in his new field.

Wendell Lane, who has been Senior Clerk in the South Dakota Office since March, 1937 was transferred to Texas October 10 to take over the position vacated by Wirth's resignation.

Daniel J. Taylor, who has been Senior Stenographer at the South Dakota Office since April, 1938, has been promoted to Senior Clerk to succeed Lane.

One new appointment is announced. James A. Gilbert, from Cambridge, Ohio, reported at Memphis, Texas, October 16, to assume charge of operations in that Subdistrict. He is a graduate of the University of Michigan School of Forestry and Conservation.

- Wm. B. Ihlanfeldt, R.O.

COUNTY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT PRAISES PROJECT

A nice compliment was paid to the Prairie States Forestry Project in Nebraska by Clyde F. Maase, superintendent of schools for Kearney County, in a letter to State Director John Emerson, which follows in part:

"I certainly feel that you are doing a wonderful service for the State of Nebraska. For a number of years I have felt the terrible loss to our State that was suffered by the loss of so many of our trees from insect infestation, drought and, sorry to say, almost the wanton destruction of trees because some farmers were jealous of the half acre of ground that was sapped by a row of trees. They apparently never thought of the protection that the row of trees gave for a quarter of a mile on either side of the row, if the row of trees extended east and west.

"I believe that all of us have been paying the price in the loss of our bird population which helped to keep down insect hordes and also devoured millions of weed seed. Certainly as you state, I believe that rows of trees well spaced will have a very marked influence in minimizing the effect of wind erosion. I wonder, too, if a large number of trees over a country do not have some effect in influencing a greater amount of rainfall. I know there are some who disprove the theory. At least our drought period of the last five or six years coincides very closely with the loss of our trees.

"Your project certainly has disproven the theory that trees could not be grown during this drought period. It is very gratifying to see mile after mile of nice young trees growing along the highways and fields of this section of the State.

"We had one school district planting, about three years ago . . . in our county. Some of the trees are still doing quite well although I believe the place has not been kept properly cultivated. . . I certainly wish that in some way all our school districts could be influenced to make nice plantings of trees on their school grounds. Too many of the school grounds are barren of any trees whatsoever. I have one wish to express, my appreciation for the work the State Forestry Service is doing."

Replying, Emerson pointed out that it is our wish, too, that school ground plantings be encouraged, since the complete absence of trees from 90 percent of the school grounds is not a good situation and proper tree

protection of such sites will illustrate to the future farmers of the State the value of windbreaks and other tree plantings. Past failures, Emerson says, have been due principally to lack of cultivation in summer when no one is at school and board members are too busy with their own farm activities. He describes cooperative measures with the Women's Clubs and offers several suggestions, one of which seems to me to have special merit. It follows:

"We have been wondering if there is any way whereby the school children could be given extra curricular credit for taking care of trees on their school grounds. If this were possible, we feel certain the trees would be tended and I am confident that school board members would be willing to provide small sums from the District Treasury for the purchase of trees if they were relieved of the responsibility of caring for the trees. Five dollars would buy approximately 500 trees which would probably be sufficient to plant even the larger school grounds. Service clubs such as Kiwanis, Rotary, Chambers of Commerce, etc., are sometimes very willing to assist in securing and planting trees for school plantings."

- H. J. Swan, R.O.

DAUGHTER BORN TO MINYARDS

Ancel E. Minyard of the Mangum, Oklahoma, office is proudly announcing the arrival of Miss Linda Lou on November 2, weight six pounds, eleven ounces. Her headquarters will be transferred from McAlester to Mangum on November 26. Mr. Minyard has not made any definite plans for her future as yet, but we can predict that she will be general supervisor of the family in less than three years.

- Howard Carleton, Jr., Okla.

FROM THE EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

You all know that the annual State Directors' conference was held at Lincoln, November 15 to 18, and you all take it for granted that many weighty problems were settled, and so they were. But I believe that one unofficial championship was decided -- the palm as the champion doodler goes to Al Ford, with Bill Ihlanfeldt in the runner-up position. The South Dakota State Director's output included eleven folded paper puzzles, two portraits (?), numerous hieroglyphics and (here Al stands alone and envied by every single man at the conference) two whittled cages with wooden balls in them. The Chief of Operation's pencil was going steadily, producing some organization charts that I really doubt he'd care to present for serious consideration, quotations, and an endless array of those exercises we all had to learn to execute satisfactorily before we could get passing grades in writing. The array of doodles the conference assembled is impressive, and if, as psychologists say, a man doodles when he is thinking, this conference was a skull session par excellence.

Down in Oklahoma last month three SCS representatives, two County Agents and a vocational agriculture teacher were accompanying Howard Carleton, Jr., on a demonstration trip when they ran into a survivor from the "live at home" age of agriculture. He is John Babek of Willow, whose 80-acre farm is completely surrounded by shelterbelt plantings. He told his visitors: "I don't buy nothing and I don't sell nothing except cotton. I raise enough on my farm to give us all a comfortable living. During the 20 years I have lived on the place I have only had to buy 800 pounds of kafir for chicken feed." Babek was of the opinion that his complete shelterbelt protection is what makes it possible for him to live that way.

The visitors saw also the cotton crop which was protected by the F. M. Doughty 1935 shelterbelt. The cotton plants in the protected plot were more than four feet tall and bore 50 to 60 bolls per stalk (62 bolls were counted on one), while cotton on other good land away from the shelterbelt was not more than knee high and had only four to six bolls per stalk.

The showing at the Doughty farm was impressive, but the experiences of Babek give food for thought.

---O---

"I believe so strongly in the shelterbelt program that I feel it is a duty as well as a pleasure to do anything I can to boost it." Those are the words of S. M. Thorfinnson, County Extension Agent at Forman, N. Dak., in replying to a letter from District Officer M. H. Willson in which Willson thanked Thorfinnson for the display he had given to the Prairie States Forestry Project in the Sargent County Extension News for October.

---O---

A skeleton rattles animatedly in Walt Webb's closet; his secret was bared at the Forest Service party. He and Ernest Wright danced together, Webb being the "lady," and they did very well. But Walt had to explain, how come? It seems that in Walt's salad days it was found necessary to teach some of the bulkier fraternity brethren, some of whom were pretty catty when shod in caulked boots, that girls in formals didn't relish having their fancy shoes stepped on too often. Someone had to take the girl's part in practice sessions and Webb, being lesser in stature than his frat mates, was it. He still expresses surprise that his arches weren't broken down.

---O---

The first American Legion Post to adopt the shelterbelt program as its conservation activity is Post No. 52 at Burns Flat, Oklahoma, it is announced in a story published by the Dill City Tribune. The Post has a membership of 43 and has set a quota of 43 miles of shelterbelt for which the members are pledged to obtain applications.

---O---

Appropos the conviction expressed by County Agent Thorfinnson in North Dakota, it is meet to tell how County Agents elsewhere are taking hold in the shelterbelt program.

O. Grover Steele, County Agent at Lincoln, Kansas, took the lead in scheduling and publicizing five township meetings at which Farm Bureau officers were to be elected. One short paragraph at the bottom of his announcement was devoted to the Farm Bureau business, and the rest was given over to the shelterbelt program. There was also a drawing which showed trees protecting a home and farm buildings, and worked into the design was the slogan, "Trees Make a Wall Against Wind."

Floyd D. Dowell, County Agent at Watonga, Oklahoma, sent a letter to all farmers, in which he urged them to get shelterbelts planted. His letter, in part, follows:

"I strongly urge you to consider what a shelterbelt can do for your farm and how it will help our entire community.

"The Forest Service does not supply free trees for ornamental or farmstead planting but it does cooperate with landowners in getting shelterbelts established, provided the soil is not too tight or shallow or rocky. Shelterbelts are planted only on cultivated ground and must protect at least 20 acres of crop land. You must also agree to take best care of the trees.

"If you already have a shelterbelt on your farm urge your neighbor to get one; it will help you and your community. I urge you to look into this matter and get complete information about this fine program by using the enclosed postal card which will not obligate you in any manner."

---O---